

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a method of coordinating a public safety activity, the steps of:
 - providing a plurality of hubs,
 - providing for a selection of individual ones of the hubs in accordance with the public safety activity to be coordinated,
 - providing resource groups of spokes each associated with an individual one of the hubs,
 - providing for a selection of individual ones of the spokes,
 - providing for a communication between the individual ones of the selected hubs in accordance with the public safety activity to be coordinated, and
 - providing for a communication between each individual one of the selected hubs and selected ones of the spokes in other one of the selected hubs through the other ones of the selected hubs.
 2. In a method as set forth in claim 1 wherein
 - matters relating to the public safety activity are transmitted between the selected hubs and between each of the selected hubs and the selected ones of the spokes in each of the selected hubs.
 3. In a method as set forth in claim 2 wherein
 - a communication relating to the public safety activity is provided from each hub to individual ones of the other selected ones of the hubs and individual ones of the selected spokes in the individual ones of the other ones of the selected hubs in accordance with the information in the communication.

4. In a method as set forth in claim 1 wherein
response groups composed of individuals are formed from the
selected ones of the hubs and in the selected ones of the spokes in the selected ones
of the hubs.

5 5. In a method as set forth in claim 1 wherein
the selected ones of the hubs and the selected ones of the spokes in
the selected ones of the hubs communicate with one another concerning the public
safety activity.

10 6. In a method as set forth in claim 2 wherein
individual ones of the selected hubs and individual ones of the
selected spokes communicate with one another in accordance with the information
in the communications and wherein

15 response resource groups composed of individuals are formed from
the selected ones of the hubs and the selected ones of the spokes in the selected
ones of the hubs and wherein

the selected ones of the hubs and the selected ones of the spokes
communicate with one another concerning the public safety activity.

7. In a method as set forth in claim 6 wherein
a response group is formed from invited individuals in selected ones
20 of the hubs and in selected ones of the spokes.

8. In a method of coordinating a public safety activity, the steps of:
providing a plurality of resource groups each having an interest in
promoting the public safety activity,

25 selecting individuals from the resource groups to form a response
group, and

including the individuals in the response group after the acceptance by the individuals to be included in the response group.

9. In a method as set forth in claim 8, the steps of:
receiving from one of the individuals in the response group a request
5 to be removed from the response group, and

removing the individual from the response group upon the request of the individual to be removed from the response group.

10. In a method as set forth in claim 7, the step of:
communicating the public safety activity to the selected resource
10 groups and the individuals in the response group.

11. In a method as set forth in claim 8, the steps of:
receiving from one of the individuals in the response group a request
to be removed from the response group,

removing the individual from the response group upon the request of
15 the individual to be removed from the response group, and

communicating the public safety activity to the selected resource
groups and to the individuals in the response group.

12. In a method as set forth in claim 9 wherein
the selected resource groups communicate with one another and with
20 the individuals in the response group concerning the public safety activity.

13. In a method of coordinating a public safety activity, the steps of:
providing a plurality of resource groups interested in the public safety
activity,

selecting individual ones of the resource groups interested in the
25 public safety activity,

selecting individuals in selected ones of the resource groups to form a response group,

operating the selected one of resource groups on a static basis, and

operating the response group on a dynamic basis.

- 5 14. In a method as set forth in claim 13 wherein
 the individuals in the response group are invited into the response group and are included in the response group when they accept the invitation.
- 10 15. In a method as set forth in claim 13 wherein
 an individual proposes to invite himself into the response group and
 wherein the individual becomes included in the response group when the response group approves his proposal.
- 15 16. In a method as set forth in claim 13 wherein
 a list of the resource groups in the public safety activity is provided
 and wherein
 indications are provided for each group of messages relating to the public safety activity, attachments to the messages and priority of the messages.
- 20 17. In a method as set forth in claim 13 wherein
 a list of the individuals in the response group in the public safety activity is provided and wherein
 indications are provided for each individual in the response group of messages relating to the public safety activity, attachments to the messages and the priority of the messages.

18. In a method as set forth in claim 13 wherein
the individuals in the response group are invited into the response
group and are included in the response group when they accept the invitation and
wherein

5 an individual has the ability to invite himself into the response group
and wherein the individual becomes included in the response group when the
response group approves his self-invitation and wherein

a list of the resource groups in the public safety activity is provided
and wherein

10 indications are provided for each group of messages relating to the
public safety activity, attachments to the messages and the priority of the messages
and wherein

a list of the individuals in the response group in the public safety
activity is provided and wherein

15 indications are provided for each individual of messages relating to
the public safety activity, attachments to the messages and the priority of the
messages.

19. In a method of coordinating a public safety activity, the steps of:
providing a plurality of resource groups each having an interest in
20 promoting the public safety activity,

selecting individual ones of the resource groups to form a network,
sending a message to the resource groups in the network relating to
the public safety activity, and

providing for each one of the resource groups in the network to perform individual ones of reading, replying, saving and deleting the messages sent to the resource group relating to the public safety activity.

20. In a method as set forth in claim 19, the step of:

5 providing for a reply by each individual one of the resource groups in the network to the message sender of the message received by the individual one of the resource groups in the network from the message sender.

21. In a method as set forth in claim 19, the step of:

10 providing for a reply by an individual one of the resource groups in the network on a selective basis to the message sender, or to all of the resource groups in the network, of the message received by the individual one of the resource groups in the network from the message sender.

22. In a method as set forth in claim 19, the step of:

15 forwarding to other persons or resource groups the message received by the individual one of the resource groups in the network from the message sender.

23. In a method as set forth in claim 19, the step of:

20 when an individual one of the selected resource groups in the network has been provided with authority to create and manage dynamic response groups, providing to the individual one of the resource groups an authorization to perform individual ones of the following functions:

create a dynamic response group,

invite users to join the dynamic response group, and

perform functions related to the dynamic response group, and

perform individual ones of the functions in the dynamic response group.

24. In a method as set forth in claim 20, the steps of:

providing for a reply by an individual one of the resource groups on a

5 selective basis to the message sender, or to all of the resource groups in the network, of the message received by the individual one of the resource groups from the message sender,

forwarding to other individuals or resource groups the message received by the individual one of the groups from the message sender,

10 when an individual one of the selected resource groups has been provided with authority to create and manage dynamic response groups, providing to the individual one of the selected resource groups an authorization to perform individual ones of the following functions:

create a dynamic response group,

15 invite users to join the dynamic response group, and

perform functions related to the dynamic response group, and

17 perform individual ones of the functions in the dynamic response group.

25. In a method of coordinating a public safety activity in a network 20 involving resource groups, the steps of:

receiving authorization in an individual one of resource groups in the network to do the following:

(a) invite selected users to join a response group in the networks,

(b) add the selected users to the response group when the selected users accept the invitation, and

(c) thereafter send messages to the resource groups, and the individuals in the response group, in the network

- 5 26. In a method as set forth in claim 25, the steps of:
 providing a name for the response group, and
 providing a description of the response group.
27. In a method as set forth in claim 26, the step of:
 providing to a user the listing of the selected users and the resource
10 groups in the network.
28. In a method as set forth in claim 25, the step of:
 deleting from the response group one of the selected users when the selected user indicates that the selected user does not wish to be in the response group any longer.
- 15 29. In a method of coordinating a public safety activity, the steps of:
 providing hubs,
 providing spokes on a more localized geographic basis than the hubs, each of the spokes being associated with a single hub to receive public safety information from and pass public safety information to the hub,
20 providing for a communication of each hub with other hubs and, through the other hubs, with the spokes associated with the other hubs, and
 providing for a communication concerning public safety information between each spoke and local clients related to the spoke.

30. In a method as set forth in claim 29 wherein
the local clients include laptop computers, mobile data terminals,
hand-held computers and workstations.
31. In a method as set forth in claim 29 wherein
5 communication between the hubs, between the hubs and the spokes
and between the spokes and the local clients are by individual ones of wireless and
wired techniques.
32. In a method as set forth in claim 29 wherein
the hubs are at the state agency level such as the California state
10 patrol and
the spokes are at the local agency level such as the Los Angeles
Police Department and wherein
the clients are at an even more local area than the spokes.
33. In a method as set forth in claim 29 wherein
15 individuals are selected from individual ones of the hubs and the
spokes to define a dynamic response group for facilitating the communication of
messages at the hubs and the spokes in the network.
34. In a method as set forth in claim 30 wherein
communication between the hubs, between the spokes and between
20 the spokes and the local clients are by individual ones of wireless and wired
technique
the hubs are at the state agency level such as the California state
patrol and wherein
the spokes are at the local agency level such as the Los Angeles
25 Police Department and wherein

the clients are at an even more local area than the spokes and wherein individuals are selected from individual ones of the spokes to define a dynamic response group for facilitating the communication of messages at the hubs and the spokes.

5 35. In a method of coordinating a public safety activity, the steps of:
 selecting individual ones of a plurality of resource groups interested
 in the public safety activity,

providing a switch having capabilities of passing messages through
the switch between first and second opposite ends of the switch, the switch being
10 constructed to process messages passing through the switch,

passing messages from the first end of the switch on individual ones
of wired and wireless bases to a backend system at the second end of the switch and
processing the messages during the passage of the messages through the switch, and

15 passing the messages through the switch from the backend system at
 the second end of the switch to the first end of the switch and processing the
 messages during the passage of the messages through the switch.

36. In a method as set forth in claim 5 wherein
 the messages passing through the switch from the first end to the
 second end constitute requests and wherein

20 the messages passing through the switch from the second end to the
 first end constitute responses to the requests.

37. In a method as set forth in claim 35 wherein
 messages are transmitted from the first end through the switch from
 mobile and stationary clients and wherein

the mobile clients include satellites and radio frequency sources and
wherein

the stationary clients include local area networks and wherein

the clients include wired and wireless sources.

- 5 38. In a method as set forth in claim 35 wherein
 the backend system includes individual ones of the following:
 various data stores, computer aided dispatches, record management
systems and departments of motor vehicles.
- 10 39. In a method as set forth in claim 37 wherein
 the backend system includes individual ones of the following:
 various data stores, computer aided dispatches, record management
systems and departments of motor vehicles.
- 15 40. In a method of coordinating a public safety activity, the steps of:
 providing a plurality of hubs each representing an expanded
geographical area different from the expanded geographical area represented by the
other hubs,
 providing a plurality of spokes each disposed within an individual one
of the expanded geographical areas represented by an individual one of the hubs,
 providing for a communication between hubs relating to the public
safety activity,
 providing for a communication between each hub and the spokes
within the geographical area of the hub relating to the public safety activity, and

providing for an establishment of a network formed from hubs and spokes interested in communicating with one another on matters relating to the public safety activity.

41. In a method as set forth in claim 40 wherein

5 the establishment of a network can be provided by any one of the hubs and the spokes through invitations to other ones of the hubs and spokes to join the network.

42. In a method as set forth in claim 41 wherein

10 the network includes individual ones of the hubs and spokes when the individual ones of the hubs and spokes indicate a willingness to join the network upon the receipt of an invitation to join the network.

43. In a method as set forth in claim 41 wherein

15 each individual one of the hubs and spokes has the freedom to leave the network, at any time after joining the network, by indicating to the network that it wishes to leave the network.

44. In a method as set forth in claim 40 wherein

20 each hub in the network has the freedom to communicate in the network with the other hubs, and with the spokes in the other hubs through the other hub, on any matter relating to the public safety activity and each spoke has the freedom to communicate in the network with the other spokes in the network, and with spokes in other networks through the hubs associated with such spokes, on any matter relating to the public safety activity.

45. In a method as set forth in claim 44 wherein

25 the establishment of a network can be provided by any one of the hubs and the spokes through invitations to other ones of the hubs and spokes to join the network and wherein

the network includes individual ones of the hubs and spokes when the individual ones of the hubs and spokes indicate a willingness to join the network upon the receipt of an invitation to join the network and wherein

each individual one of the hubs and spokes has the freedom to leave
5 the network, at any time after joining the network, by indicating to the network that it wishes to leave the network.

46. In a method of co-coordinating a public safety activity, the steps of:
providing a plurality of hubs each representing the public safety
activity in an expanded geographical area different from the expanded geographical
10 area represented by the other hubs,

providing a plurality of spokes each disposed within an individual one
of the expanded geographical areas,

forming a network relating to the public safety activity from
individual ones of the hubs and individual ones of the spokes, and

15 forming a response group composed of personnel from individual
ones of the hubs and individual ones of the spokes in the network.

47. In a method as set forth in claim 46, the step of:
communicating information concerning the public safety activity
between the hubs and the spokes within the network and the personnel within the
20 response resource groups in the network.

48. In a method as set forth in claim 46, the steps of:
forming the network from hubs and spokes invited to join the network
and accepting the invitation and from hubs and spokes asking to join the network
and receiving an acceptance and from personnel invited to join the response group
25 and accepting the invitation and from individuals asking to join the response group
and receiving an acceptance.

49. In a method as set forth in claim 46 wherein
the hubs and the spokes in the network have an opportunity to leave
the network at any time by a request to the network to do so and wherein the
personnel in the response group in the network have an opportunity to leave the
response group at any time by a request to the network to do so.
50. In a method as set forth in claim 47, the step of
forming the network from hubs and spokes invited to join the network
and accepting the invitation and from hubs and spokes asking to join the network
and receiving an acceptance and from personnel invited to join the response group
10 and accepting the invitation and from individuals asking to join the response group
and receiving an acceptance wherein
the hubs and the spokes in the network have an opportunity to leave
the network at any time by a request to the network to do so and wherein the
personnel in the response group in the network have an opportunity to leave the
response group at any time by a request to the network to do so.
- 15 51. In a method of coordinating a public safety activity, the steps of:
providing static resource groups performing different aspects of the
public safety activity,
forming a network from individual ones of the static resource groups,
20 forming a dynamic response group consisting of individuals from
different ones of the static resource groups in the network and disposing the
dynamic response group in the network, and
communicating request and responses between the static groups and
the dynamic response group in the network.

52. In a method as set forth in claim 51, the steps of:

inviting different ones of the static resource groups into the networks
and forming the network from the static resource groups accepting the invitation,
and

5 inviting individual ones of the individuals in the static resource
groups into the dynamic response group and forming the dynamic response group
from the individuals accepting the invitation.

53. In a method as set forth in claim 52, the step of:

receiving requests to join the network from static resource groups not
10 in the network and accepting the requests, thereby including the requesting static
resource groups in the network, and

receiving requests to join the dynamic response group from
individuals in static resource groups in the network and accepting the requests,
thereby including the requesting individuals in the dynamic response group in the
15 network.

54. In a method set forth in claim 51, the steps of:

receiving requests from static resource groups in the network to leave
the network and accepting these requests, and

receiving requests from individuals in the dynamic response group to
20 leave the dynamic response group and accepting the requests from the individuals.

55. In a method as set forth in claim 51, the steps of:

inviting different ones of the static resource groups into the networks
and forming the network from the static resource groups accepting the invitation,

inviting individual ones of the individuals in the static resource
25 groups into the dynamic response group and forming the dynamic response group
from the individuals accepting the invitation,

receiving requests to join the network from static resource groups not in the network and accepting the requests, thereby including the requesting static resource groups in the network, and

- 5 receiving requests to join the dynamic response group from individuals in static resource groups not in the network and accepting the requests, thereby including the requesting individuals in the dynamic response group in the network,

receiving requests from static resource groups in the network to leave the network and accepting these requests, and

- 10 receiving requests from individuals in the dynamic response group to leave the dynamic response group and accepting the requests from the individuals.

56. In a method of coordinating a public safety activity, the steps of:
providing a network composed of resource groups operating in the public safety activity,

- 15 communicating messages to the resource groups in the network,
determining in a switch where the request came from and where the request is going among the resource groups in the network and what its content is,
processing, including parsing, the message in the switch, and
queuing the message in the switch to the intended recipient resource
groups in the network.

57. In a method as set forth in claim 56, the steps of:
inviting into the network resource groups involved in the public safety activity, and

accepting into the network the resource groups which accept the invitation.

58. In a method as set forth in claim 56, the step of:
including in the network a dynamic response group including
individuals who are members of resource groups in the network.

59. In a method as set forth in claim 56, the step of:
inviting into the dynamic response group in the network individuals in
the resource groups in the network, and

10 accepting into the dynamic response group the individuals who accept
the invitation.

60. In a method as set forth in claim 56, the steps of:
inviting into the network resource groups involved in the public safety
activity, and

15 accepting into the network the resource groups which accept the
invitation,

including in the network a dynamic response group including
individuals who are members of resource groups in the network,

inviting into the response group in the network individuals in the
resource groups in the network, and

20 accepting into the dynamic response group the individuals who accept
the invitation.

61. In a method of coordinating a public safety activity, the steps of:
providing a network composed of resource groups operating in the
public safety activity,

receiving messages relating to the public safety activity in a gateway in a switch from a source of information relating to the public safety activity and operating upon the messages in the gateway to introduce the messages into a message processing unit in the switch,

5 processing the messages relating to the public safety activity in the message processing unit in the switch to introduce the processed messages to a system processing unit in the switch, and

10 operating in the system processing unit in the switch on the processed messages to transmit the messages relative to the public safety activity to a backend unit outside of the switch.

62. In a method as set forth in claim 59 wherein
the message is a request and wherein the system processing unit, the message processing unit and the gateway sequentially process a response to the request for transmission to the source.

15 63. In a method as set forth in claim 62 wherein
the system processing unit acts on the response substantially the same as the action of the gateway or the request and wherein the gateway acts on the response substantially as the action of the system processing unit on the request.

20 64. In a method as set forth in claim 59 wherein
the request is provided by the source on a wired or non-wired basis and the response is provided by the backend system on a wired or non-wired basis.

25 65. In a method as set forth in claim 65 wherein
the system processing unit acts on the response substantially the same as the action of the gateway on the request and wherein the gateway acts on the response substantially as the action of the system processing unit or the request.

66. In combination for coordinating a public safety activity,
a plurality of sources for transmitting messages,

a plurality of switches each disposed relative to an individual one of
the message sources for receiving messages from the message source,

5 each of the switches including a gateway for determining the sender
and recipient of the message and the format of the message,

each of the switches including a message processing unit for
processing the message after operation on the message by the gateway,

each of the switches including a system processing unit for formatting
10 the message for transmission to a recipient,

individual ones of the sources and individual ones of the recipients
being included in a network formed to coordinate the public safety activity.
67. In a combination as set forth in claim 66,
each of the sources including a hub or a spoke,

15 the recipient including a hub or a spoke, and

firewalls between each of the sources and the switch and between the
switch and the recipient.
68. In a combination as set forth in claim 66,
each of the sources including an external source of signals from an
20 individual one of a satellite, a transmitter, a local area network and a wireless client,

the recipient including a hub or a spoke.
69. In a combination as set forth in claim 63,
the source including a hub or a spoke,

the recipient including one of a database, a source of inbound messages and external systems such as computer aided dispatch, record management systems and departments of motor vehicles.

70. In a combination for coordinating public safety activity,

5 a group of agencies inter-related to coordinate the public safety activity,

a first one of the agencies constituting a hub or a spoke,

a second one of the agencies constituting a hub or a spoke,

a switch disposed between the first and second ones of the agencies,

10 and the switch including a gateway, a message processing unit and a system processing unit.

71. In a combination as set forth in claim 70 wherein,

a first firewall disposed between the switch and a first one of the first and second ones of the agencies, and

15 a second firewall disposed between the switch and the second one of the first and second ones of the agencies.

72. In a combination as set forth in claim 67 wherein

the first one of the agencies constitutes a selected one of a hub and a spoke and

20 the second one of the agencies constitutes a selected one of a hub and a spoke, and

the agencies constitute two (2) hubs or a hub and a spoke related in the public safety activity with the hub.

73. In a method as set forth in claim 25, the steps of:

accepting in the response group an individual one of the users in one of the resource groups as a member of the response group when the user indicates that the user wishes to join the response group, and

5 thereafter sending messages relating to the public safety activity to the selected one of the users as a member of the response group.

74. In a method as set forth in claim 73, the steps of:

providing a name for the response group,

providing a description of the response group,

10 providing to a user the listing of the selected users and the resource groups in the network,

deleting from the response group one of the selected users when the selected user indicates that the selected user does not wish to be in the response group any longer,

15 disposing a first firewall between the switch and a first one of the first and second ones of the agencies, and

disposing a second firewall between the switch and the second one of the first and second agencies.

75. In a method of coordinating a public safety activity in a network
20 involving a plurality of resource groups, the steps of:

inviting other resource groups to join the network,

including the other resource groups in the network when the other resource groups accept the invitation, and

thereafter sending messages to the resource groups and the other resource groups in the network.

76. In a method as set forth in claim 75, the step of:
deleting one of the resource groups from the network when the
5 resource group indicates that it no longer wishes to be in the network.

77. In a method as set forth in claim 25, the step of:
receiving an indication from a resource group not in the network that
it wishes to join the network,

deciding in the network whether it wishes to have the resource group
10 join the network, and

including the resource group in the network when the decision is
made to have the resource group join the network, and

thereafter sending messages in the network to the resource group
recently included in the network.

15 78. In a method as set forth in claim 77, the step of
deleting one of the resource groups from the network when the
resource group indicates that it no longer wishes to be in the network.